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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**VETO AND VETO MESSAGE**

To: Honorable Chairperson and Members  
Board of County Commissioners  
Miami-Dade County, Florida

From:   
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor  
Miami-Dade County, Florida

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2005 NOV 12 AM 10:26  
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Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the provisions of Section 1.10.A of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, I hereby veto Resolution number R-1273-05 adopted at the November 3, 2005 Board of County Commissioners Meeting:

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUATION OF  
HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEES  
AND ELECTED OFFICIALS AFTER RETIREMENT**

**Veto Message**

During the course of the November 3, 2005 Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting, resolution No. R-1273-05 Executive Continuing Health Insurance Program (ECHIP) was approved by a 5-4 vote of the BCC. The resolution calls for a modification of the current benefits for retired elected officials and executive employees. The major provisions delineated within ECHIP are as follows:

- Eligibility is restricted to elected officials with at least 5 years of service and county employees with 20 or more years of continuous employment, and at least 6 years of Group 1 classification.
- ECHIP provides for 10 years of dependent healthcare coverage for qualifying elected officials and county employees.
- ECHIP also affords participants the option to receive a \$500 monthly cash payment in lieu of healthcare benefits for dependents.
- The 10 years of coverage for dependents will begin upon retirement.
- ECHIP eligibility is retroactive to January 1, 2004.

While I applaud the efforts of Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan for her leadership and vision to provide for the health and welfare of retired elected officials, county executives, and their families, I have two main concerns with this item as it was amended and adopted. Foremost, the fact that the resolution is retroactive to January 1, 2004, creates an unanticipated fiscal impact on the current fiscal year's budget. A resolution that allows for proper channeling through the budgetary process can ensure that adequate resources are allocated for this program without detriment to existing County services.

In addition, the resolution's \$500 cash option in lieu of dependent care coverage is another area of concern. Offering dependent coverage satisfies the previously stated goal of providing for the health of these employees and their families, while a monthly cash payment appears to go beyond this intended purpose.

### Closing

Recognition of dedicated and outstanding long-term public service and maintaining the competitiveness of top County positions with those of the private sector are worthwhile objectives that deserve further attention. I encourage the spirit of appreciation that, no doubt, inspired this resolution, and I hope that future efforts are made in the best interests of our retired elected officials, county employees and their loved ones, as well as our taxpayers. The resolution begins to address this necessity; however, in its current form, I cannot support this effort.